



United States Military Academy Band
West Point, New York 10996



Heritage Brass Quintet

The Heritage Brass Quintet from the United States Military Academy Band at West Point, New York, has been delighting audiences throughout the Tri-State area of New York, New Jersey and Connecticut with its unique brand of music since 1985. Performances by the group have been described as, "wonderful, eclectic and flawless performances full of energy and enthusiasm." A large and diverse repertoire representing all styles of music from the 16th century to the present, enable the group to offer a well-balanced program that is sure to satisfy any musical appetite.

The Heritage Brass Quintet performs regularly for various ceremonies and receptions at the United States Military Academy at West Point. The group continues to thrill the hearts of many, as they perform in the Academy Band's Chamber Music Recital Series and can be seen playing for schools, community events and performing arts series throughout the Tri-State Region. This group proudly represents the state of the arts at the United States Military Academy.

SERGEANT MAJOR ROBERT SMITHER - TRUMPET, received his Master of Music degree from the University of Oklahoma, SGM Smither and became a member of the Academy Band in 1984. A native of Kansas City, Missouri, he has studied with Jacob Larson; Jim Elswick, principal of the Springfield, Missouri Orchestra; and Mel Broiles, co-principal of the Metropolitan Opera Orchestra.

MASTER SERGEANT HARRY DITZEL - HORN, obtained his Bachelor of Music degree from the New School of Music in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. He has performed as the principal horn player in the Pennsylvania Sinfonia Orchestra and the Lehigh Valley Chamber Orchestra. Since 1996, MSG Ditzel has served as principal horn in the USMA Band.

SERGEANT FIRST CLASS STEPHEN LUCK - TRUMPET, joined the Military Academy Band in 1984. He is a graduate of the Curtis Institute of Music in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania where he studied with the principal trumpet player of the Philadelphia Orchestra, Frank Kaderabek. Originally from Poughkeepsie, New York, SFC Luck has performed extensively in several organizations throughout the Hudson Valley including the Hudson Valley Philharmonic.

SERGEANT FIRST CLASS THOMAS PRICE - TUBA, received his Master of Music degree from the University of Kansas and his Bachelor of Music Education degree from Southwest Texas State University. His experience includes principal tubist with the Topeka Symphony, the Lawrence Symphony Orchestra and the Bedford Springs Festival Orchestra. SFC Price began his duties with the Military Academy Band in October of 1986.

SERGEANT FIRST CLASS LORI SALIMANDO-PORTER - TROMBONE, is a native of Chazy, New York, and joined the Military Academy Band in January of 1996. She received her Bachelor of Music degree in 1983 from the Eastman School of Music in Rochester, New York. In 1987 she received her Master of Music degree from the Catholic University of America in Washington, DC. SFC Salimando-Porter has performed with the Maryland Symphony, Kennedy Center Opera House Orchestra, Colorado Springs Symphony and the Baltimore Symphony. Before joining the U.S. Army, SFC Salimando-Porter also served in both the United States Navy and Marine Corps.